

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 261630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6079

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0277

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANT INFO CINCLANTFLT COMNAVAILANT
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CO NAVSECGRU KEF CINCAD ENT AFT COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC COMNAVSECGRU
WASHDC COMAC SCOTT AFB DET 14 39 ARRS KEF FROM COMICEDEFOR KEF
FEB 26 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: BASE BLOCKAGE

QUOTE

SITREP/003/260830Z FEB 76

1. CONDITIONS AT THE NX SERVICE STATION REMAINED UNCHANGED
FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS (PASEP TO EXPANDED INFO ADDEE LIST)

2. (C) DURING THE EVENING OF 24 FEB GARDAR MAGNUSSON, A FISHERMAN
AND ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE JAN 76 GRINDAVIK DEMONSTRATION,
ADVISED OF A POSSIBLE GROUP BLOCKAGE OF ENTRANCES TO THE MAIN BASE
AROUND MID-DAY 25 FEB. POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPUTED TO
BE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FISHING INDUSTRY WHO IN JAN BLOCKED
THE ENTRANCE TO GRINDAVIK TRANSMITTERS SITE (17 MI. SE MAIN BASE)
AND ROCKVILLE RADAR SITE (7 MI. NW MAIN BASE.)

3. (C) IN AM 25 FEB POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR COUNTERING BASE
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ENTRANCE BLOCKAGE WERE DISCUSSED WITH DEPUTY JUDGE, KEFLAVIK AIRPORT

POLICE AUTHORITY, OLAFUR HANNESSON. AT THAT TIME MR. HANNESSON WAS INFORMED THROUGH HIS OFFICE THAT THE MAIN BASE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BLOCKADED, BUT POSSIBLY THE DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD OCCUR AT GRINDAVIK AND ROCKVILLE SITES.

4. (C) AT ABOUT 1400Z 25 FEB, MR. HANNESSON INFORMED ORIGINATOR THAT BLOCKING OF MAIN BASE GATES WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. INSTEAD, THE ROADS TO THE GRINDAVIK AND ROCKVILLE SITES WOULD BE BLOCKED AT 1500. HE CONFIRMED THAT DEMONSTRATORS WOULD BE FISHERMEN WHO WERE PROTESTING THE NON-RESOLUTION OF THE ON-GOING ICELAND/UK FISHERIES DISPUTE. COMMENT: THE CHANGE IN DEMONSTRATION PLANS MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY A DESIRE TO DISASSOCIATE FROM THE LABORERS AND SEAMANS UNION MEMBERS STRIKE ACTION AT THE NX SERVICE STATION.

5. (C) AT 1445, ABOUT 14 DEMONSTRATORS IN TWO CARS AND ONE TRUCK ARRIVED AT GRINDAVIKWM A TWO FOOT HIGH BARRICADE OF DIRT AND ROCK WAS CONSTRUCTED ACROSS THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE SITE. THIS BARRIER IS WELL WITHIN THE AGREED AREA (APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET FROM THE SITE FENCE.) A SECOND ROCK AND DIRT BARRICADE (ONE FOOT HIGH) WAS FORMED ACROSS THE ACCESS ROAD BUT OFF THE AGREED AREA. THE CHIEF OF POLICE, GRINDAVIK GUDFINNUR BERGSON, AFTER TALKING WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS, RELAYED THAT NO "SUPPLIES" WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE CARRIED TO OR FROM THE SITE .
HE FUTHER INDICATED THAT "SUPPLIES" CONSIST OF ANY HAND-CARRIED ARTICLE, REGARDLESS OF INTENDED USAGE.

6. (C) AT 1455, A GROUP OF APPROX 14 DEMONSTRATORS IN 3 TRUCKS AND 4 CARS SET UP A FIVE FOOT DIRT AND ROCK BARRIER ON THE ACCESS ROAD TO ROCKVILLE. THIS BARRICADE IS ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM THE SITE'S MAIN GATE AND HAS A FOOT PATH THROUGH ITS CENTER. IT BLOCKS ACCESS TO THE RADAR SITE NAVAL SECURITY GROUP ACTIVITY AND THE NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION RECEIVER SITE (THE LATTER TWO ACTIVITIES ARE LOCATED 1/4 MILE NORTH OF ROCKVILLE RADAR SITE). THE DEMONSTRATORS DEPARTED ABOUT 1930 LEAVING THE BARRICADE INTACT. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN ON 26 FEB.

7. (C) FOOT TRAFFIC TO AND FROM BOTH SITES HAS NOT BEEN PREVENTED AND THE DEMONSTORS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE BARRIERS WOULD BE TEMPORARILY REMOVED FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES. SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE FISHERMEN MAY KEEP THE BARRIERS UP FOR ONE TO FOUR DAYS. THE SUBJECT
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OF POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATOR PENETRATION OF THE FENCED AREAS AT GRINDAVIK OR ROCKVILLE WAS INTRODUCED BY MR. HANNESSON. IF SUCH AN INCIDENT ARISES THE DEFENSE FORCE POLICY WAS STATED AS FOLLOWS: IF A DEMONSTRA-

TOR PENETRATES A FENCED AREA AT ONE OF THESE SITES, THE ICELANDIC POLICE WILL BE ASKED TO APPREHEND THE INDIVIDUAL AND IF UNABLE TO DO SO, MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL DETAIN THE PERSON USING MINIMUM RERAINING FORCE AND TURN THE PERSON OVER TO THE ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES.

8. (C) MR. THORGEIR THORSTEINSSON, JUDGE, KEFLAVIK AIRPORT POLICE AUTHORITY, WAS REQUESTED TO HAVE THE BARRIERS REMOVED. HE STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS TIME. MR. HALLGRIMUR DALBERG, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE ICELANDIC DEFENSE COUNCIL, WAS CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO HAVE THE BARRIERS REMOVED. HE STATED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO MR MATTHIAS MATHIESEN, MEMBER OF THE ALTHING (ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT) AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DISTRICT WHICH ENCOMPASSES THE AGREED AREA. MR MATHIESEN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH DEMONSTRATOR LEADERS ON AM 26 FEB THE REMOVAL OF THE BARRIERS.

9. (C) IMPACT. THE IMPACT OF LACK OF GASOLINE FOR POV REMAINS AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. BARRING UNFORSEEN EQUIPMENT FAILURES, BLOCKADES AT ROCKVILLE AND GRINDAVIK CAN BE TOLERATED WITH LITTLE IMPACT OTHER THAN INCONVENIENCE FOR 10-14 DAYS CONSIDERING ON-SITE SUPPLIES AND MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES. LIMITED RESUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED VIA HELICOPTER, WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMITTING.

10. (U) AN EMERGENCY DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR AM 26 FEB.

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MARTIN

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